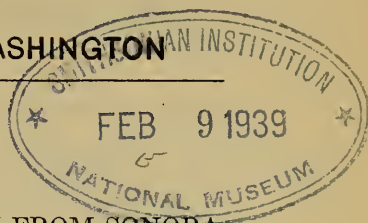


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



A RACE OF THE MILITARY MACAW FROM SONORA.

BY A. J. VAN ROSSEM AND THE MARQUESS HACHISUKA.

Although the Military Macaw is a common species and well known to aviculturists, specimens with authentic data are far from numerous in collections. It is undoubtedly due to this latter fact that the extreme northern race described below has, until now, escaped detection by systematic ornithologists. It is only fair to say that aviculturists have for some years been aware of the situation and it was due entirely to the statements of one of these, our friend Mr. W. J. Sheffler of Los Angeles, that we were led to investigate the matter. We take pleasure in naming the new race as

Ara militaris sheffleri, subsp. nov.

Type.—Male adult, preparing to breed, 31896 Dickey collection; Guirocoba, southeastern Sonora, Mexico, May 23, 1937; collected by A. J. van Rossem and Robert Hannum.

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Ara militaris mexicana* Ridgway of southwestern Mexico but tail very much shorter; rump slightly darker and less greenish blue.

Range.—Arid Tropical Zone foothills in southeastern Sonora (Guirocoba; Chinobampo; Alamos; Quiriego; Soyopa), extreme southwestern Chihuahua (San Francisco Cañon) and extreme northeastern Sinaloa (San Francisco Cañon).

Remarks.—In typical *mexicana* the tail averages very much longer than the wing, whereas in *sheffleri* it averages slightly shorter. The measurements given by Ridgway (Birds of North and Middle America, Part 7, 1916, p. 133, footnote) for *mexicana* are typical for that race since there were, of course, no northern specimens at his disposal. We have examined what are presumably the same seven individuals (including the type) whose measurements he has recorded. In addition to these we have examined five *mexicana* in the collection of the Bureau of Biological Survey and five in the British Museum.

Specimens from southern Sinaloa, Nayarit, and western Zacatecas are intermediates which (on the basis of twelve skins) are closer to *mexicana*.

| MEASUREMENTS. | | |
|--|---------|---------|
| | WING | TAIL |
| 5 <i>mexicana</i> from southern Jalisco, Colima, and Michoacan..... | 360-395 | 405-430 |
| 12 <i>mexicana</i> from southern Sinaloa, Nayarit, and Zacatecas..... | 355-385 | 365-430 |
| 7 <i>shefleri</i> from Sonora..... | 355-375 | 345-370 |